Losses to Air India due to mismanagement

1031. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is losing Rs. 14 to 15 crores a day due to mismanagement of its affairs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is seeking Government's subvention to come out of the crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Air India is asking Government to increase its equity from the existing Rs. 145 crores to Rs. 5,000 crores; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India is running in losses largely due to operating losses, which have been compounded due to the present economic recession as also the high oil prices last year and debt servicing of new aircraft.

(b) to (e) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) had submitted a proposal for infusion of equity of Rs.1231 crores and provision of soft loan of Rs.2750 crores in 2008-09. However, NACIL has been advised to formulate a concrete proposal for induction of equity and provision of soft loan.

Enhancement of fares by domestic airlines

1032. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airlines have enhanced their fares recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and percentage of enhancement;

(c) whether this is attributed to hike in aviation fuel price;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes any policy to subsidise the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and take steps to reduce the operational cost of airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Jet Airways, Jet Lite, Kingfisher Airlines, Spicejet, Go Air, Paramount Airways and IndiGo have increased the fuel surcharges by Rs.400/- across their network effective 16th June, 2009. Air India has also raised its fuel surcharge by Rs.400/- effective 19 June 2009. The increase in fare has been due to the increased price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(e) and (f) No, Sir at present there is no proposal with the Ministry to subsidise the Aviation Turbine Fuel. However, the Government has taken various steps which *inter-alia* are as under:

(1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.

(2) The State Governments have been persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Andhra Pradesh and in certain cases Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

(3) The Oil companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis.

Shortage of Air Traffic Controllers

1033. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Air Traffic Controller (ATC) in our Aviation sector and they often work 30 hours shift leaving them little time for rest or recuperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to train more personnel in Air Traffic Control Sector, which is crucial for the smooth operation of any aviation system as it provides services for traffic clearance to land and take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present a total number of 1630 Air Traffic Controllers are in position against the sanctioned strength of 2107. They are not required to work 30 hours shift. They work in planned shift with adequate breaks between consecutive shift days.

(c) The training centre at Allahabad has adequate capacity and infrastructure to meet current and future requirement of training of ATCOs. However, with the objective of enhancing the capacity, an additional training centre has been established at Hyderabad to expedite the training process of ATCOs.

Construction of new international airports

†1034. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any new proposal or plan for the construction of new international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for construction of new metro airport in Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.